(4).—*Other Operations for the improvement of the growing Stock.*

59. In West Thána *Bindukli* (*Loranthus longiflora*) was cleared from standards in the coupes by guards and hired labour at a cost of Rs. 11.

60. Prickly pear to a considerable extent was taken out of the bábhul reserves along the Railway at a cost of Rs. 75.

61. In both East and West Thána creeper-cutting was carried on by guards.

(5).—*Experiments.*

62. There are no experiments to be recorded.

(*d*).—Exploitation of Major Forest Produce.

63. There is little to add to the details recorded last year (paragraph 84).

64. The system of employing Nákedárs in the coupes to issue passes to bandars and Railway stations at the expense of contractors and of stationing Government Nákedárs at bandars and Railway stations to issue export passes continues to work smoothly.

65. Jawhár, Dharampur and Baroda have all sold large areas of forests on foot during the past season and in 1893-94. All this wood comes down to the same bandars as that of West Thána coupes, and it is wonderful how the demand for Government wood continues unabated.

(*e*).—Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by Land and Water.

66. None of the teak timber from the Thána coupes finds its way to Bombay. That from West Thána is exported from the various bandars by sea to North Gujarát and Káthiáwár, while that from East Thána is exported by rail to the Dekkhan and Central Provinces. All the firewood of both divisions on the other hand goes to Bombay from West Thána by sea and from East Thána mostly by rail. In the case of those coupes of East Thána which are too far from the Railway to make the export of firewood profitable, it is converted into charcoal and sent to Bombay in that form.

67. The teak put on the market in the Panch Maháls when not sold locally is exported to the large towns on the Railway (Ahmedabad, Surat, Broach, &c.) as rafters for roofing.

68. The Dáng timber goes partly above ghâts and partly to the coast. As explained elsewhere, the export above ghâts from the Upper Dángs failed completely. The Lower Dáng timber is brought out by contractors on the share system to a Government depôt at Wágrech, where it is sold by auction, periodically, in lots according to the demand. The Wágrech Depôt is on the Ambika River at its junction with the sea, and as that river has its rise in the Dángs, if a system of floating the timber down could be substituted for the present costly cartage, a very large profit would result. Such a scheme is now under consideration.

69. The Mándvi Forests are not at present being regularly worked, but any timber put on the market there is almost invariably floated down to Surat by the purchasers. There are large private timber depôts at Surat and Balsár.

(*f*).—Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(1).—*Extraction of Fodder.*

70. The grass of reserves was sold standing where there was an export demand, but by far the major portion was taken by the people (especially in Thána) without payment and mainly used for burning on their ráb plots.

(2).—*Grazing.*

71. The details of cattle, &c., grazed free and on payment of fee are given in Form 55; but the figures for Thána, where the grazing regulations are not yet in force, are of little value and are mere estimates.

(3).—*Miscellaneous Produce.*

72. The usual farms of minor produce were sold during the year and yielded in all Rs. 9,050.